

(離)入身的靈魂：羅伯特·蒙特馬利·柏德《牧羊人李》中排他的生命政治

謝作偉

國立高雄第一科技大學 應用英語系 助理教授

摘要

十九世紀前半，美國文化見證了新舊文化典範的衝突，典型的例子就是不同類型濫情小說的興起。像喬治·李帕德（George Lippard）的《魁克城》（1845）以及喬治·佛斯特（George Foster）的《紐約切片》（1858）等之類的流行文本，試圖批判社會文化的腐敗，極力主張改革的必要。寫這些流行文本的作家之中，羅伯特·蒙特馬利·柏德（1806-1854）算是其中較為著名的作家。他的小說《牧羊人李》（1836）結合了冒險傳奇、哥德式小說、田園故事以及其他濫情小說的要素等等不同的文本類型，尤其獨樹一格。本文強調小說主人翁牧羊人李的靈魂在不同的身體間移動時，他不但體驗了不同的身份，也匯集了各類社會與政治論述於一身。本文援用生命政治論述，藉以指出牧羊人李透過入身與離身的過程，試圖協調不同的社會、種族以及科學的論述，同時也運用排除策略，將有病的身體視為社會上與經濟上的他者，藉此培育具備健康有活力的主體。此做法代表管理人口的方式，建構理性化的健康身體。所有這些論述體現十九世紀初美國生命政治的運作。

關鍵詞：羅伯特·蒙特馬利·柏德、《牧羊人李》、生命政治、離身/入身、排除政治

(Dis)embodied Soul: the Politics of Exclusion in Robert Montgomery Bird's *Sheppard Lee*

Tso-Wei Hsieh

Assistant Professor, National Kaohsiung First University of Science &
Technology, Department of English

Abstract

During the first half of the nineteenth century, American culture had witnessed a growing conflict between new and old cultural paradigms exemplified by the rise of diverse sensational romances and novels. Some of these popular texts, such as George Lippard's *The Quaker City* (1845) and George Foster's *New York in Slices* (1858), criticize social and political corruptions and address an urgent need to reform the state. Among the writers of these popular texts, Robert Montgomery Bird (1806-1854) emerged as an important writer in this social context. One of his novels, *Sheppard Lee* (1836), is unique in the sense that it integrates a variety of genres including, most notably, adventure, gothic, pastoral tales, and other sensational elements. The protagonist, Sheppard Lee, transmigrates his spirit from body to body, he experiences multiple identities, registering a variety of social and political discourses in the antebellum society. Drawing on biopolitical discourse as the theoretical framework, this paper shows that, through Sheppard Lee's embodiment and disembodiment, Bird tries to negotiate different social, racial, and even scientific discourses, while practicing the rhetoric of exclusion to eliminate the sick body as socially and economically undesirable and thereby cultivating the vital power of the healthy subject. Such a practice entails a way of regularizing the population and rationalizing the construction of the ideal and healthy body. All these discourses reflect the working of biopolitics in American culture and politics during the early nineteenth century.

Keywords: Robert Montgomery Bird, *Sheppard Lee*, Biopolitics, (dis)embodiment, the politics of exclusion